

# **Special Open Door Forum:**

## **How to become a Quality Improvement Organization (QIO)**

November 29, 2007

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM, Eastern Standard Time (EST)

**(Conference Call Only)**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is hosting this Special ODF designed to educate potential organizations about the federal requirements necessary to become a Medicare QIO contractor.

Medicare's QIO Program is a key component of CMS' broad agenda to improve care for Medicare Beneficiaries. CMS contracts with independent organizations (QIOs) to work intensively with providers to improve care.

The QIO Program's next 3-year contract cycle, the 9<sup>th</sup> Statement of Work (SOW), begins in August 1, 2008 and will focus on the following four themes: prevention, patient safety, care transitions (patient pathways) and beneficiary protection. Each theme consists of a comprehensive set of tasks, roles and responsibilities, progress measures and evaluation.

To meet the timeframe for the 9<sup>th</sup> SOW, CMS will issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) either in January or February of 2008. The Open Door will provide potential contractors information on the following:

- Basic QIO Program history and contract structure
- High-level 9<sup>th</sup> SOW content
- QIO eligibility requirements and strategies to meet requirements
  - physician sponsorship vs. physician access
  - QIO governance requirements
  - QIO conflict of interest policies
- Other opportunities for QIO work (subcontracts, teaming arrangements, etc.)
- RFP timing and process
- Answers to questions and opportunity for comment

More information about the QIO Program (eligibility requirements) may be obtained at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/QualityImprovementOrgs/>.

We look forward to your participation.

### **Special Open Door participation instructions:**

If you are interested in registering for the Special Open Door Forum, please register on the CMS website at <http://registration.intercall.com/go/cms2> . Upon registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing further participation information. The deadline

for registration is **2:00 PM EST, November 27, 2007**. Note: Capacity is limited so register early. Registering via the web will ensure we can accommodate as many participants as possible.

An audio recording of this special forum will be posted to the Special Open Door Forum website at [http://www.cms.hhs.gov/OpenDoorForums/05\\_ODF\\_SpecialODF.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/OpenDoorForums/05_ODF_SpecialODF.asp) and will be accessible for downloading beginning **December 6, 2007**.

For automatic emails of Open Door Forum schedule updates (E-Mailing list subscriptions) and to view Frequently Asked Questions please visit our website at: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/OpenDoorForums/>

Thank you for your interest in CMS Open Door Forums.